

**CLOSE TO HOME** by John McPherson



# Wedding's uncertain future is no secret

**Dear Abby:** Was I spreading gossip by telling my former husband that our granddaughter's wedding was off? We had just returned from their engagement party. It is my understanding that one wants to cancel, while the other wants to go through with it.



**JEANNE PHILLIPS**  
DEAR ABBY

The wedding is a year away and this has been the talk of the family for the past six months. Apparently, there has been trouble in paradise because she had an affair. As a result, they are now going to counseling. Our granddaughter said she was going to move back in with her mother for a while. — "Gossip" in California

**Dear "Gossip":** While news that the wedding may be off should be the privilege of the engaged couple to reveal, I don't think telling your former husband there is trouble in paradise and what it entailed was gossip. It is not a secret within the family, and her grandfather IS a relative regardless of the fact that the two of you are divorced.

**Dear Abby:** I'm a 13-year-old (American) boy with a problem. I act childish, as in hugging my mom every day and saying "I love you" to her.

If anyone in my middle school finds out about this, I'm dead meat. Could you please give me some advice? — *Sad in South Korea*

**Dear Sad:** Gladly. Hugging one's mother and telling her you love her is nothing to be embarrassed about. It isn't "childish," but shows you are a caring son and have a great relationship with her. (Not all teenagers, or their moms, are so lucky.)

I see no reason to announce anything to your schoolmates that's private — first, because the relationship you have with your mom is none of their business, and second, they probably hug their mothers, too.

**Dear Abby:** Can you help me understand something that's bothering me? Since when is it OK for kids to stand in front of stores and ask for money for things (sports teams, group trips, etc.)?

When I was growing up (not that long ago),

we held car washes and bake sales and sold candy bars. This standing and asking for money without doing something to earn it drives me nuts!

I have often been tempted to say something, but always bite my tongue so as not to cause a scene, but I'm fed up! — *Venting in Florida*

**Dear Venting:** I confess, when I first started reading your letter, I thought you were a curmudgeon. By the time I reached the end, I realized you have a valid point.

This may happen because the adults involved in the fundraising are unimaginative and don't realize the message this sends to the kids is a poor one.

Because it bothers you, talk to the manager of the store where this is allowed because not all businesses encourage it.

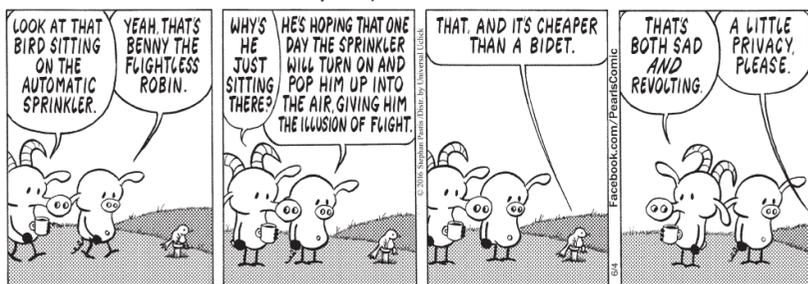
You could also write a letter to your local newspaper and call attention to the fact that when organizations do this, it teaches young people they can get something for nothing.

**Write Dear Abby** at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE** by Stephan Pastis



**GARFIELD** by Jim Davis



**JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE** by Chris Cassatt and Gary Brookins



**WIZARD OF ID** by Brant Parker



**THE PHANTOM** by Lee Falk



**DILBERT** by Scott Adams



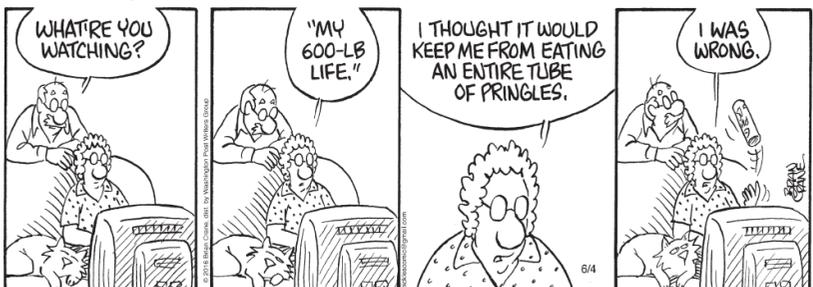
**MARK TRAIL** by James Allen



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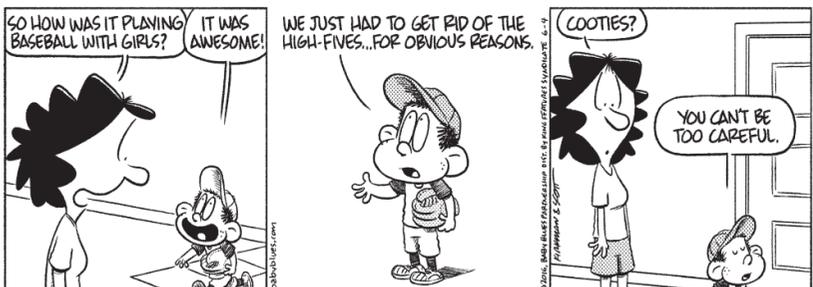
**PICKLES** by Brian Crane



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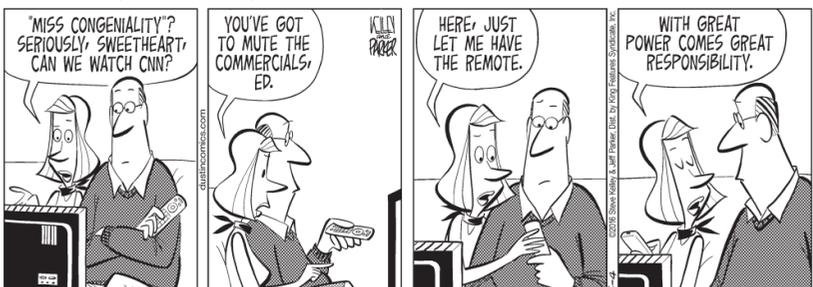
**BABY BLUES** by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



**ZITS** by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



**DUSTIN** by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



## Daily Horoscope

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your praises will be sung today, but not as loudly as you'd like them to be. Is this mic even on? Well, hopefully it's enough to know that a couple admiring souls care enough to tell you about it.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** The answer to "Why?" will be "Why not?" That's better than the usual answers, which include "Why ask why?" and of course the classic "Because I said so."

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll struggle with a certain line of reasoning and/or a conversational trajectory. This is indicative of turmoil that goes much deeper. Are you brave enough to explore this now?

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Being there for people isn't hard for you unless the people you're there for are hard to pin down. Those who play hard-to-get might get lost in the chaos of the weekend.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Why aim low? You've the same odds of hitting your mark that you would have if you aimed high. Shoot for the top most-exciting goal. Your first priority will match up beautifully with another person's wishes.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** There's an interesting dynamic forming between you and someone you think of as competition. Truly, there's enough to go around. Maybe you can use one another to sharpen your skills. Seek a win-win.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It will be so worthwhile to follow the directions. Find them. Don't worry; your originality will remain intact. The only thing you'll sacrifice is the time it takes to read and comprehend.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** There are doubting voices in your head, but you don't have to listen to them. Humanity and fear go hand-in-hand. Good news, though: The fear will trigger an extra flow of fuel to your nervous system.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You may find yourself wondering if your friends have been supportive or your loved one has been true. Go on and actively be the supportive, loyal person you're driven to be and your fears will subside.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The relationship energy will flow freely through the structures of your life. When you let someone go, you will also be letting someone in. The cycle will be seamless.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You see selfishness as a kind of sickness. You pity those afflicted — and all are afflicted at one time or another. The worst part is that it's hard to know when the afflicted one is you. That's why you'll be so generous this weekend.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The tension that exists in your personal life won't be such a big deal once you perfect the fine art of ignoring the problem. It's not as easy as it sounds, but it's entirely doable.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**